

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:
 - a body case;
 - an image forming unit disposed in the body case for
 - 5 forming an image on a recording medium;
 - a transporting section disposed in the body case for
 - transporting the recording medium;
 - a first circuit board which is disposed in the body
 - case and on which electronic components are mounted; and
 - 10 a second circuit board which is disposed in the body
 - case in substantially parallel to the first circuit board
 - and on which electronic components that are horizontally
 - deviated from and larger in size than the electronic
 - components mounted on the first circuit board are mounted,
 - 15 wherein at least a part of the transporting section
 - is placed in a space which is defined by a height
 - difference between the electronic components mounted on
 - the first circuit board and the electronic components
 - mounted on the second circuit board.
- 20 2. The image forming apparatus according to claim
- 1, wherein the first circuit board and the second circuit
- board are placed not to overlap with each other in a
- direction which is perpendicular to placement surfaces of
- the circuit boards.
- 25 3. The image forming apparatus according to claim

1, wherein the first circuit board and the second circuit board are placed substantially horizontally below the image forming unit.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an electronic component-mounting surface of the first circuit board and an electronic component-mounting surface of the second circuit board are placed in opposite directions.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first circuit board comprises a control board which constitutes a control circuit of the image forming apparatus, and the second circuit board comprises a power supply circuit board which constitutes a power supply circuit of the image forming apparatus.

10 6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a transport path which is disposed in the body case, which has a portion elongating in substantially parallel to the first and second circuit boards, and along which the recording medium is transported,

15 wherein the transporting section is placed in the portion of the transport path, the portion elongating in substantially parallel to the first and second circuit boards.

20 7. The image forming apparatus according to claim

6, wherein the portion of the transport path elongating in
substantially parallel to the first and second circuit
boards is a return path along which, when an image
formation is to be conducted on both faces of the
recording medium, the recording medium on one face of
5 which an image is formed by the image forming unit is
again transported to the image forming unit.

8. The image forming apparatus according to claim
7, wherein the return path is placed at a level which is
10 lower than levels of the first and second circuit boards,
a reference guide which elongates in a transportation
direction of the recording medium is disposed on one side
of the return path, the reference guide being buttable
against a side edge of the recording medium to restrict a
15 position of the recording medium in a direction
perpendicular to the transportation direction and an
inclination of the recording medium, and the transporting
section transports the recording medium while causing the
side edge of the recording medium to butt against the
20 reference guide.

9. The image forming apparatus according to claim
7, wherein a metal cover plate which covers the first and
second circuit boards is disposed below the first and
second circuit boards, and at least a portion of the metal
25 cover constitutes the return path.

10. The image forming apparatus according to claim
9, wherein a step is formed in the cover plate between a
portion opposed to the first circuit board and a portion
opposed to the second circuit board.

5 11. The image forming apparatus according to claim
10, wherein the portion of the cover plate opposed to the
first circuit board is opposed to the transporting section,
and the portion of the cover plate opposed to the second
circuit board functions as a guide for the recording
medium which is transported by the transporting section.
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12. The image forming apparatus according to claim 3,
further comprising a transport path that has a portion
elongating in substantially parallel to the first circuit
board and the second circuit board.

15 13. An image forming apparatus comprising:
a body case;
an image forming unit disposed in the body case for
forming an image on a recording medium;
a transporting section disposed in the body case for
transporting the recording medium;
20 a first circuit board which is disposed in the body
case and on which electronic components are mounted; and
a second circuit board which is disposed in the body
case in substantially parallel to the first circuit board
25 and on which electronic components that are larger in size

than the electronic components mounted on the first circuit board are mounted,

wherein the transporting section is placed in a position which is opposed to the first circuit board, and
5 which is not opposed to the second circuit board.

14. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the first circuit board and the second circuit board are placed not to overlap with each other in a direction which is perpendicular to placement surfaces of
10 the circuit boards.

15. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the first circuit board and the second circuit board are placed substantially horizontally below the image forming unit.

16. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein an electronic component-mounting surface of the first circuit board and an electronic component-mounting surface of the second circuit board are placed in opposite directions.

20 17. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the first circuit board comprises a control board which constitutes a control circuit of the image forming apparatus, and the second circuit board comprises a power supply circuit board which constitutes a power supply circuit of the image forming apparatus.
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18. The image forming apparatus according to claim
13, further comprising a transport path which is disposed
in the body case, which has a portion elongating in
substantially parallel to the first and second circuit
boards, and along which the recording medium is
5 transported,

wherein the transporting section is placed in the
portion of the transport path, the portion elongating in
substantially parallel to the first and second circuit
boards.

10 19. The image forming apparatus according to claim
18, wherein the portion of the transport path elongating
in substantially parallel to the first and second circuit
boards is a return path along which, when an image
15 formation is to be conducted on both faces of the
recording medium, the recording medium on one face of
which an image is formed by the image forming unit is
again transported to the image forming unit.

20 20. The image forming apparatus according to claim
19, wherein the return path is placed at a level which is
lower than levels of the first and second circuit boards,
a reference guide which elongates in a transportation
direction of the recording medium is disposed on one side
of the return path, the reference guide being buttable
25 against a side edge of the recording medium to restrict a

position of the recording medium in a direction
perpendicular to the transportation direction and an
inclination of the recording medium, and the transporting
section transports the recording medium while causing the
5 side edge of the recording medium to butt against the
reference guide.

21. The image forming apparatus according to claim
19, wherein a metal cover plate which covers the first and
second circuit boards is disposed below the first and
10 second circuit boards, and at least a portion of the metal
cover constitutes the return path.

22. The image forming apparatus according to claim
21, wherein a step is formed in the cover plate between a
portion opposed to the first circuit board and a portion
opposed to the second circuit board.
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23. The image forming apparatus according to claim
22, wherein the portion of the cover plate opposed to the
first circuit board is opposed to the transporting section,
and the portion of the cover plate opposed to the second
20 circuit board functions as a guide for the recording
medium which is transported by the transporting section.

24. The image forming apparatus according to claim 15,
further comprising a transport path that has a portion
elongating in substantially parallel to the first circuit
25 board and the second circuit board.

25. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a body case;

an image forming unit disposed in the body case for
forming an image on a recording medium through an
5 electrophotographic process;

a fixing unit disposed in the body case for fixing
the image that is formed on the recording medium by the
image forming unit;

10 a transporting section disposed in the body case for
transporting the recording medium;

a first circuit board which is disposed in the body
case and on which electronic components are mounted; and
a second circuit board which is disposed in the body
case and on which electronic components that are larger in
15 size than the electronic components mounted on the first
circuit board are mounted,

wherein the electronic components mounted on the
second circuit board are placed in a space which is
defined between the image forming unit and the fixing
20 unit.

26. The image forming apparatus according to claim
25, wherein the first circuit board and the second circuit
board are placed not to overlap with each other in a
direction which is perpendicular to placement surfaces of
25 the circuit boards.

27. The image forming apparatus according to claim
25, wherein the first circuit board and the second circuit
board are placed substantially horizontally below the
image forming unit.

5 28. The image forming apparatus according to claim
25, wherein an electronic component-mounting surface of
the first circuit board and an electronic component-
mounting surface of the second circuit board are placed in
opposite directions.

10 29. The image forming apparatus according to claim
25, wherein the first circuit board comprises a control
board which constitutes a control circuit of the image
forming apparatus, and the second circuit board comprises
a power supply circuit board which constitutes a power
supply circuit of the image forming apparatus.

15 30. The image forming apparatus according to claim
25, further comprising a transport path which is disposed
in the body case, which has a portion elongating in
substantially parallel to the first and second circuit
boards, and along which the recording medium is
20 transported,

wherein the transporting section is placed in the
portion of the transport path, the portion elongating in
substantially parallel to the first and second circuit
boards.

31. The image forming apparatus according to claim
30, wherein the portion of the transport path elongating
in substantially parallel to the first and second circuit
boards is a return path along which, when an image
formation is to be conducted on both faces of the
recording medium, the recording medium on one face of
which an image is formed by the image forming unit is
again transported to the image forming unit.

32. The image forming apparatus according to claim
31, wherein the return path is placed at a level which is
lower than levels of the first and second circuit boards,
a reference guide which elongates in a transportation
direction of the recording medium is disposed on one side
of the return path, the reference guide being buttable
against a side edge of the recording medium to restrict a
position of the recording medium in a direction
perpendicular to the transportation direction and an
inclination of the recording medium, and the transporting
section transports the recording medium while causing the
side edge of the recording medium to butt against the
reference guide.

33. The image forming apparatus according to claim
31, wherein a metal cover plate which covers the first and
second circuit boards is disposed below the first and
second circuit boards, and at least a portion of the metal

cover constitutes the return path.

34. The image forming apparatus according to claim
33, wherein a step is formed in the cover plate between a
portion opposed to the first circuit board and a portion
opposed to the second circuit board.
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35. The image forming apparatus according to claim
34, wherein the portion of the cover plate opposed to the
first circuit board is opposed to the transporting section,
and the portion of the cover plate opposed to the second
circuit board functions as a guide for the recording
10 medium which is transported by the transporting section.

36. The image forming apparatus according to claim 27,
further comprising a transport path that has a portion
elongating in substantially parallel to the first circuit
15 board and the second circuit board.